

2

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/537,361	GOODMAN, DAVID M.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Inder P Mehra	2666	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response dated: 7/16/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 3/29/00 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to "Response to office action dated: July 16, 2004.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claim 1-13 allowed.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest fairly the following limitations in combination with other limitations of the claims:

As recited by claims 1, 5

"a message encoding module arranged to determine which of said first and second transmission paths is selected and being co-operable with said second data signal transmission path to adjust at least one of the pointer bits associated therewith to indicate said path selection',

each of said first and second data ports being co-operable with the second data signal transmission path to determine the setting of said at least one pointer bit and thereby to determine which of the first and second data paths is selected".

As recited by claim 6,

"adjusting, at said third data port, at least one of the pointer bits associated with said second data signal path to indicate said path selection;

determining, at each of said first and second data ports, the setting of said at least one pointer bit thereby to determine which of the first and second data paths is selected".

Art Unit: 2666

As recited by claim 8,

“wherein order to communicate a message relating to said first data signal from said other data port to said one data port, said other data port is arranged to embed said message one or more pointer bits associated with the path of said second data signal, said one data port being arranged to determine said message by examining said one or more pointer bits”.

AS recited by claim 10,

“embedding, at said other data port, a message relating to said first data signal in one or more pointer bits 20 associated with the path of said second data signal; examining, at said one data port, said one or more pointer bits to determine said message”.

As recited by claim 12,

“wherein in order to signal a message between data ports, the apparatus is arranged to embed said message in one or more of said new data flag (NDF) bits associated with the transmission path of a data 15 signal being communicated between said data ports”.

As recited by claim 13,

“embedding a message in one or more of said new data flag (NDF) bits associated with the transmission path of a data signal being communicated between said data ports”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2666

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Conclusion*

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Inder Pal Mehra*  
Inder P Mehra  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2666  
11/1/04

*MT*

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UNIT 2666